

90
YEARS

**Denver
Museum
of Natural
History**

**The
First
90
Years**





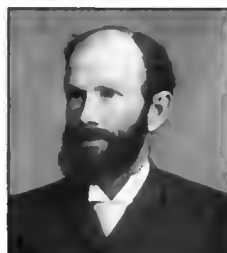
Junius F. Brown



John F. Campion



William Church



Governor J. B. Grant



C. J. Hughes, Jr.



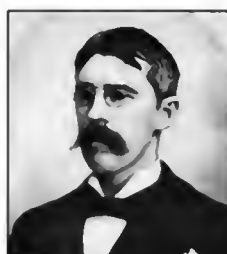
William H. James



Charles B. Kountze



E. W. Merritt



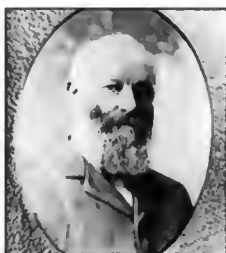
Wm. Byrd Page



Thomas M. Patterson



Henry M. Porter



Albert E. Reynolds



Frank M. Taylor



J. A. Thatcher



C. S. Thomas

90
YEARS

Incorporators of the Colorado
Museum of Natural History

ca 1900 [DMNH Photo archives]



The First 90 Years

"Whatever the source of inspiration that gave birth to the Museum, the first material results had their origin in a little log cabin at Breckenridge, Colorado."

Jesse D. Figgins
Director,
Denver Museum of
Natural History, 1910-1935

*The Carter Museum,
Breckenridge, Colorado, 1880.
Photo by O. Westerman.
[DMNH Photo Archives]*

Denver City Council appropri-
ates \$17,500 toward construc-
tion of a museum building.

1897

Agreement is reached with
naturalist Edwin Carter to
acquire his collection of
Colorado fauna for
Denver.

1899

Articles of Incorporation are
filed on December 6 for the
Colorado Museum of Natural
History.

1900



A Gold Miner Turned Naturalist

The "little log cabin" was the home and museum of Edwin Carter. Carter came to Colorado at the height of the 1859 Pike's Peak Gold Rush hoping to mine his share of the riches. He had some success. In fact, he was considered one of the finest judges of placer mining sites in the territory. He gave all that up in 1868 when he settled in the small, remote mountain town of Breckenridge. There he devoted the rest of his life to his real love—the scientific study of the birds and mammals of the Rocky Mountains. This pioneer naturalist assembled and preserved, almost

single-handedly, one of the most complete collections of Colorado fauna in existence. Experts pronounced some of his animals to be the finest specimens anywhere.

Pioneer naturalist Edwin Carter with some of his mounted specimens in his Breckenridge, Colorado, museum about 1899. Photo by E. C. Peabody. [Denver Public Library Western History Department]



Praise from Denver

Carter's fame spread. His collections were visited by numerous dignitaries, including in 1892, the governor of Colorado, the mayor of Denver, and other prominent Colorado and Denver citizens. This delegation was so impressed with Carter's life work, they instantly proclaimed their interest in moving the collection to Denver where it could be seen by all.

Because of his advancing age, Carter wanted to guarantee the future of his collection. A museum in the state's capitol city seemed the culmination of

East end of City Park is selected as the site for the new museum.

1901

Construction of the Museum's first wing is completed.

1903

Construction of the Museum's central wing is completed. Museum is opened to the public for the first time on July 1.

1908

a dream. According to Carter, "As Denver is destined to be among the great Cities of the Continent, so will a museum here founded . . . grow up to be one of the great entertaining and educational institutions of the country."

Carter agreed to sell his collection, but years of delays followed. Building plans were drawn in 1898, but no agreement was reached until December 18, 1899, when a group of Denver businessmen met formally for the fourth time to discuss ways and means for establishing a "museum and library of natural history." Mr. Carter requested that a corporation be formed and a fireproof museum building be erected.

He also asked payment of \$10,000 for his collection, valued by experts at between \$30,000 and \$50,000. In addition, Carter was appointed curator for life with a monthly salary of \$150.

Tom Groves and Harry Lytton discovered Colorado's largest known piece of gold near Breckenridge in 1887. It weighed 136 troy ounces! After Groves proudly displayed the gold to the local townspeople, the Breckenridge Daily Journal observed that, "Tom was so elated and fondled the find so affectionately that the boys declared that it was 'Tom's Baby.'" "Tom's Baby" was donated in 1909 as part of the Campion crystallized gold collection.

A New Century, A New Museum

In 1899, John T. Mason promised a future donation of his extensive butterfly and moth collection. John F. Campion offered his impressive collection of crystalline gold, which the Museum received in 1909. The Colorado Museum of Natural History, however, was not incorporated until December 6, 1900. Although Carter's collection provided the nucleus for the new museum, he did not live to see it materialize. Carter died in February 1900, probably the result of arsenic poisoning—an occupational hazard of taxidermists.

The Museum's founding coincided with the signing of a contract with the City of Denver, which would provide a suitable building site and funding toward construction. The Museum pledged to raise an additional \$25,000, or more, by personal subscription. A Board of Trustees was created and empowered to create a museum worthy of the newly-formed City and County of Denver and the State of Colorado, which was only 24 years old at the time.

"To establish, erect, and maintain in the City of Denver, a Museum of Natural History to encourage and aid the study of Natural Science, [and] to advance the general knowledge of kindred subjects . . ."

was the new corporation's purpose. John F. Campion, the mining magnate who spearheaded the negotiations with Carter, became the first president of the Board of Trustees.

Edifice Incarnate

The Board appointed John T. Mason as volunteer manager of the Museum in February 1901. Shortly thereafter the first staff members were hired. Rudolph Borchardt and his son, Victor, were employed to arrange and prepare the Carter Collection.

The present site of the building in Denver's City Park was agreed upon by the Trustees on October 28, 1901. The first unit, called the East Wing, was finished in July 1903, but was

The Museum's first professional director is hired.

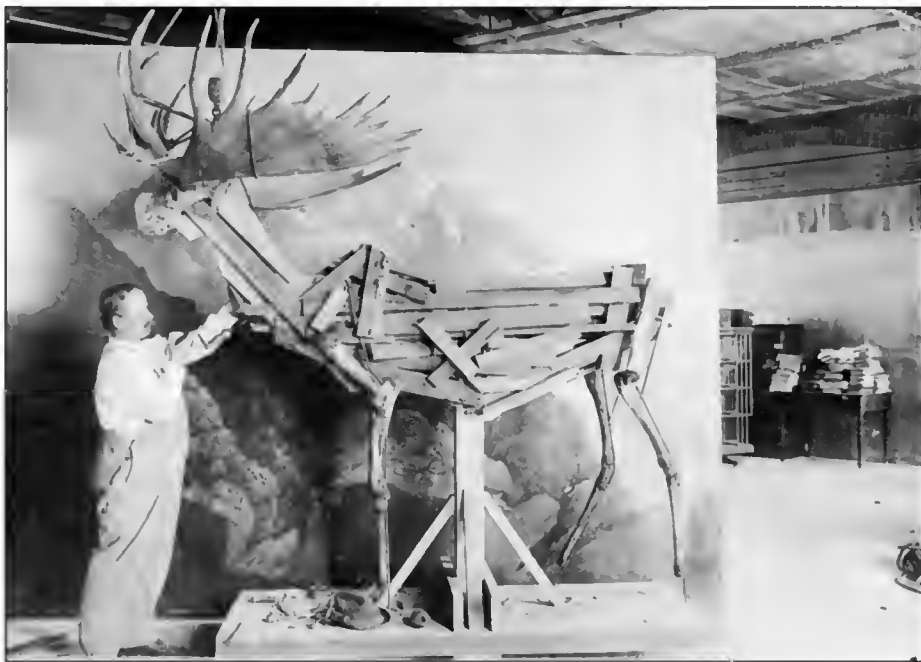
1910

Grading, landscaping, and planting of ground around the Museum is done for the first time.

1912

The Museum's first scientific publication is issued.

1915



the Museum's 3,400 specimens of mammals, birds, rocks, and minerals were on exhibit for the opening.

An early account described the Museum as "a single structure on a knoll in treeless City Park, far out on the edge of town." Ranchers drove their cattle to market down Colorado Boulevard, which was then a dirt road. Before the Museum was built in this Denver suburb, among only a few newly-established neighbors, the site was leased to hay and oat farmers.

An early museum taxidermist prepares the armature for a moose.
[DMNH Photo Archives]

A Hill with a View

Like a mansion overlooking its estate, the Museum sat on the highest prominence in the park, commanding an unobstructed 200-mile view of the Rocky Mountains. George E. Kessler, landscape architect, chose the Museum as a "feature place" in his design of Denver's splendid parkway system.

From the time its doors first opened to the public, the Museum contained an art gallery. This popular attraction was located on the top floor of the original East Wing. Loans and donations of art came from many prominent Colorado citizens, including the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown.

not opened to the public. This wing housed a workshop and the heating plant. An art gallery would later occupy its

top floor.

The Main, or Central, Wing was completed next, and

housed the original natural history exhibits that captivated visitors on opening day, July 1, 1908. About 12 percent of

Donation of the Museum's first dinosaur skeleton is received.

1916

Museum's first field work outside Colorado is done in South Carolina and Florida.

1917

Standley Memorial Wing is completed.

1918



During the first year of public operations, the Museum suffered troublesome financial problems. Staff were laid off; the Board even recommended

closing the Museum after only three months. More than once the Mayor intervened, asking the bank to allow overdrafts by the fledgling institution.

In 1909, Museum visitors witnessed the first rough landscaping around the Museum. [DMNH Photo Archives]

Donation of Museum's first movie camera is received.

1919

Museum's first field work outside the contiguous United States is done in arctic Alaska.

1921

The Director from New York

Realizing that a volunteer manager was no longer adequate, in 1910 the Board hired the Museum's first professional director, Jesse D. Figgins, head of the Department of Preparation and Exhibition of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. After his first year on the job, Figgins had balanced the budget and established a comprehensive program of field work, education, exhibition, and publication. During his administration, the Museum greatly expanded its collecting activities and its size. The building was enlarged from 8,559 to 69,168 square feet.

Field work in 1911 involved collecting birds and mammals for exhibit and study, and acquiring foreground accessories. New exhibits were built; old ones were rearranged. Traveling loan cases were made for use by school classes in Denver.

In 1912, the Museum opened an aquarium with species of native Colorado fish. The Museum's annual attendance of 105,821 equalled almost half of Denver's population. The following year a biological survey of Colorado birds and mammals was begun.

During its first two decades, the Museum purchased a collection of 732 birds, and sportsmen donated large

Museum's discovery of Folsom projectile point increases human antiquity in North America by thousands of years.

1927

mammal specimens that were collected on privately financed expeditions. Museum trustee William C. Bradbury donated an outstanding collection of bird eggs, including an egg of an *Aepyornis*, a huge extinct bird of Madagascar. Other donations included the Mary Kimball Pratt and Etienne A. Ritter collections of minerals; the R.C. Hills Library of 650 volumes; and collections of rocks, fossils, and shells.

Butterflies and Dinosaurs

In 1915, the Museum acquired 800 specimens from its first fossil collecting expedition at the Florissant fossil beds in central Colorado. The same

year the remains of a *Diplodocus* were discovered near Canon City. The specimen was donated to the Museum in 1916. In 1918, John T. Mason donated his butterfly and moth collection.

Before the tenth anniversary of its opening, the Museum needed additional exhibition space. More than half of the Main Hall was converted to display area by 1917. During the same year, the Museum participated in an ornithology collecting expedition along the Atlantic coast in South Carolina and Florida—its first field work outside Colorado. In 1917, Mrs. Joseph M. Standley contributed funds for the construction of a new

wing, in memory of her husband. The new North Wing, known as the Standley Wing, was built at a cost of \$66,250, and was completed in 1918.

In 1921, staff members Alfred M. Bailey, who succeeded Jesse D. Figgins as director in

1936, and Russell Hendee traveled to arctic Alaska for a 16-month field study and collecting trip. They brought back an exceptional number of birds and mammals for the Museum's exhibits and study collections, as well as for exchanges with other

The Museum's art gallery was a popular attraction for many years. [DMNH Photo Archives]



William H. James Memorial Wing is dedicated.

1928

Museum inaugurates special program for school children and teachers.

1929

Bronze bear statue, "The Grizzly's Last Stand," is given to the Museum by John A. McGuire.

1930

institutions. The Museum's Alaskan exhibits included seven mammal and eleven bird groups. Most are still on display today, including the popular polar bear diorama.

Other collecting expeditions during the decade traveled to the Bahamas in 1923 and to South America in both 1925–26 and 1928.

Point of Importance

In 1926, the Museum excavated one of the most important archaeological finds in North America. Near Folsom, New Mexico, distinctive stone projectile points were discovered in direct association with

bison bones of an extinct species. This discovery proved human existence in the New World to be about 8,000 years earlier than previously assumed. The find had such revolutionary significance that scientists were at first skeptical of its authen-

ticity. It was not validated until the following season when recognized authorities viewed the uncovering of another projectile point at the site. The new type of artifact was named "Folsom point."

The 1920s continued to be an

active and exciting time for the Museum. In 1927, Museum trustee Senator Lawrence C. Phipps sponsored the collecting of a long-jawed mastodon that was placed on exhibit the following year.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Elsie James Lemen and her brother, Harry C. James, a south wing was built on the main building. This new wing, dedicated on June 8, 1928, was named in honor of one of the Museum's original incorporators, William H. James.

In 1929, the Paleontology Division received material from the famous La Brea Tar Pit in Los Angeles, California. The La Brea exhibit was installed two years later. Also in 1929, the



*The Museum field party rounding Cape Thompson, Alaska, in 1922.
[DMNH Photo Archives]*

Staff wages are reduced and activities curtailed due to the effects of the Great Depression.

1932

Museum Art Gallery is closed and art collections are transferred to the Denver Art Museum.

Curved backgrounds, domed ceilings, tilted glasses, and fluorescent lights are introduced into habitat dioramas.

1936

Museum begins to receive assistance from the federal Work Projects Administration (W.P.A.).

Phipps Auditorium is dedicated. Museum's first elevator and new ground floor entrance are installed.

1940



Left: In 1927, the Museum's field party at Folsom, New Mexico, uncovered this projectile point among the bones of the long extinct *Bison antiquus*.
[DMNH Photo Archives]

Right: The known antiquity of humans in the New World was increased as a result of the excavations at Dent, Colorado, in 1932. Father Conrad Bilgery is at lower left in the picture.
[DMNH Photo Archives]



Far right: Chief Preparator Philip Reinheimer [second from left] together with other staff members and W.P.A. workers prepare the *Diplodocus* skeleton.
[DMNH Photo Archives]

Mason butterfly collection was placed on exhibit.

In 1930, Trustee John A. McGuire donated a bronze bear statue by sculptor Louis

Paul Jonas, entitled "The Grizzly's Last Stand." McGuire requested the statue be located near the front of the Museum as a reminder of the grizzly's diminishing numbers.

That request has been honored for 60 years, and the statue has become the Museum's registered trademark.

By 1932, with the consent of donors, the Museum had transferred all its art material to the Denver Art Museum, located in Denver's new Municipal Building. The fol-

World War II decreases Museum's staff and activities.

1942

Museum's annual attendance goes beyond one million for the first time.

1946

Colorado Museum of Natural History changes popular name to Denver Museum of Natural History.

1948



C. Waldo Love painted the backgrounds for 28 of the museum's dioramas between 1936 and 1967. Realism characterized his paintings. Incredibly, these mural-sized works of art were done almost entirely from memory without the use of photographs or sketches. Director A. M. Bailey said of Love, "Instead of blocking [the background] in as a whole . . . , he'd start over at the left-hand side and paint clear across and finish up with the right-hand side. He was the most remarkable fellow you ever saw as an artist."



Following year small mammal exhibits were installed in the old art gallery. The remaining space was converted into a lecture room for both school groups and adult programs.

Prehistoric Bonanza

The Museum's huge Nebraska mammoth was put on display in 1932. That same year marked the discovery of the

Dent site in northeastern Colorado, the first generally accepted find of a projectile point unmistakably associated with articulated mammoth remains. The site was discov-

ered by, and worked in cooperation with, Regis College of Denver and Father Conrad Bilgery of that institution. From the Dent site, the remains of twelve mammoths

and two Clovis points were added to the Museum's expanding collections.

Three years later, Dr. H. Marie Wormington founded the

Walt Disney production "Water Birds" incorporates extensive footage shot by Museum staff.

1952

New west building addition is dedicated.

1953

Museum produces TV series about its field work for local station.
Botanical Garden Foundation headquarters in Museum and plants rose garden and Robert E. More Pinetum on the Museum's west and south sides.

1954

Museum's Archaeology Department. As the Museum's Curator of Archaeology until 1968, she made enormous contributions to her discipline.

In exchange for Folsom, Dent, and other material, the Museum acquired skeletons of *Anatosaurus* and *Diplodocus* from the American Museum of Natural History (1934) and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (1935), respectively. The *Diplodocus* bones arrived at the Museum still surrounded by their rock matrix from the Jurassic strata of Dinosaur National Monument, Utah. Philip Reinheimer, along with other staff members and Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) workers, prepared and articulated the 75'6"

skeleton in only two years.

In 1935, the Museum made a successful wildlife collecting expedition to Central America; received a fossil mastodon from Indiana; and assembled the *Anatosaurus*, which was on display by 1936.

Transformation

Alfred M. Bailey began his tenure as Director of the Museum on May 1, 1936. This time was one of transition from old methods of display, dependent on natural light from windows, to new exhibits illuminated by fluorescent light. Under Bailey's direction, old habitat displays were reinstalled in new cases with curved and domed back-

grounds, perfecting the illusion of nature indoors. By the time of his retirement in 1969, four major additions to the Museum had increased its size to 263,000 square feet, and staff members had collected specimens on five continents and on Pacific islands.

In recognition of his distinguished career as a naturalist and for his work at the Museum, Alfred M. Bailey received two honorary degrees: Doctor of Science, Norwich University, 1944, and Doctor of Public Service, University of Denver, 1954. In 1967, he received the Regis College *Civis Princeps* award. In 1971, a bird nesting area near Silverthorne, Colorado was named in his honor.

On December 27, 1938, Senator Lawrence C. Phipps broke ground for Phipps Auditorium. From its dedication on January 11, 1940, until 1982, it provided a showcase for the Museum's programs, including the popular Film Lecture Series, which has since moved to other facilities.

In 1940, the installation of the first elevator and a new ground floor public entrance provided Museum access to the physically disabled. That same year the Plesiosaur, the last of the large reptiles installed in the Dinosaur Hall, was placed on exhibit.

World War II imposed severe limitations on the Museum's accomplishments. W.P.A. assis-

tance was curtailed, employees and trustees entered the armed services, entire departments were closed, and field work was limited to short local trips.

At the end of World War II, Denver struggled to return to normal. With help from the Museum, the City revived its traditional Christmas lighting display at Civic Center. Albert C. Rogers, chief preparator of mammals, modelled and cast six full-sized reindeer to pull Santa Claus' sleigh.

Planetarium is installed and gives first show December 22.

1955

National television shows report on the Museum's work.

1960

Phipps Auditorium reopens after interior is destroyed by fire.

1962



Dr. Alfred M. Bailey discusses the Museum's Laysan Island exhibit for Denver's "Panorama" televi-

sion show in January, 1960.
[DMNH Photo Archives]

Two-volume 1175-page
Birds of Colorado books are
published.

1965

New Northwest and Southwest
(Boettcher Memorial) wings are
dedicated.

1968

New Charles C. Gates Planetarium
is dedicated.

Planetarium aids in live NBC television coverage of
the flight of Apollo 8.

Museum receives the Mary W.A. and Francis
V. Crane collection—its first major
donation of anthropological
artifacts.

In 1957, the Museum realized a long-planned expedition to Campbell Island. No transportation was available to this remote outpost located 350 miles south of New Zealand. Fortunately for the Museum, Aksel Nielsen was a Museum Trustee. Nielsen was a long-time friend of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and transportation aboard a U.S. Naval Support ship was arranged.

Post-War Resurgence

In 1946, the first full year after the war, the Museum's annual attendance soared beyond one million for the first time, despite a polio epidemic and a coal strike. On May 20, 1947, the citizens of Denver approved a bond issue for the proposed west addition to the Museum. Work was delayed for several years, during which inflation raised construction costs. By 1951, however, a grant from the Boettcher Foundation and fundraising efforts by the Museum's Board of Trustees provided the necessary funds. The West Wing was dedicated on May 15, 1953.

The Colorado Museum of Natural History assumed its trade name, Denver Museum of Natural History, on September 18, 1948. The Mayor of Denver requested the change to acknowledge the City's support for the Museum's work.

During the 1950s, new technologies inspired new forms of programming. Dr. Bailey was the first Museum spokesperson to appear on television when, in 1954, he hosted a series of programs describing the Museum's field work. The same year also marked the rebirth of educational programming for school children, with a Denver Public Schools teacher providing scheduled museum tours. In

1955 the Museum's first planetarium was installed. In April 1967, construction began on the southwest (Boettcher Foundation) and northwest wings. Both were dedicated June 27, 1968.

William H. Traher painted or assisted with the backgrounds of 13 of the Museum's dioramas. Innovation was his constant quest. In a break with tradition, Traher extended parts of the Museum's Campbell Island background paintings onto the exhibit floors. This technique produces a superior blending of the three-dimensional foreground with the two-dimensional background.

Bringing the Universe to Denver

In 1968, the planetarium, renamed for Charles C. Gates, moved to its current location in the Boettcher Wing. A gift from the Gates Foundation provided the new facilities, which greatly expanded the planetarium's programming capabilities. For the last 22 years, the planetarium has produced shows, narrated by such names as Leonard Nimoy and Orson Welles, that have educated and entertained, while exploring the mysteries of space.

The Botswana Africa Hall shares the Boettcher Wing with the planetarium. Made

possible by a generous gift from Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson of Denver, the African Hall was fully opened to the public in November 1981. The Savuti Water Hole exhibit, the largest diorama in the Museum, dominates the hall.

In 1968, through the efforts of Assistant Director Roy E. Coy, the Museum received a gift from Mary W.A. and Francis V. Crane—their extensive collection of American Indian artifacts. The collection became the core for the Museum's anthropological study collections, and provided the majority of artifacts used to illustrate American Indian life-ways in the Crane American Indian Hall. The Museum's Native American Advisory

Council, among the first of its kind in the country, advised and guided the preparation of the exhibits. The final phase of the hall was opened in 1978.

Museum receives full accreditation from the American Association of Museums.

Museum receives Curis Principis award for Institutional Excellence from Regis College.

Museum membership program is begun.

1972

Museum's first broad-based appeal for supplementary financial support is launched.

1976

56-foot fin whale skeleton is donated.

1977

*The Cheyenne Campground diorama, shown here in part, is an example of the results of the cooperative efforts between the Museum and its Native American Advisory Council.
[DMNH Photo Archives]*



In 1982, Colorado adopted Stegosaurus as its official state fossil. In 1980, a fourth-grade class from Thornton, Colorado, discovered that three other states had state fossils, but Colorado had none. The students convinced State Senator Polly Baca-Barragan to introduce Senate Bill 270 in 1981. Although they faced numerous setbacks, the students followed the entire process through to victory.

Reaching Out

Over the past twenty years the Museum has sought to broaden its audience and its base of support. To enhance that effort, an office of public

relations, now known as the Marketing Division, was founded in 1972.

Also in 1972, the Junior League of Denver initiated the Museum's membership associ-

ation, dedicated to broadening public participation in the work of the Museum. The founding group of 22 members has grown to more than 27,500 in 1990. Membership services were incorporated

into the body of the Museum in 1978. Today their goals remain the same—to stimulate public interest in the Museum, develop community support, and encourage service in various volunteer activities. Museum members enjoy a variety of privileges, including volunteer work opportunities, previews of new exhibits, and an extensive travel program.

Two honors were accorded the Museum in 1972. On April 29, the Museum received the Regis College *Civis Princeps* award for Institutional Excellence. In November, the American Association of Museums granted full accreditation status to the Museum, an honor renewed in 1990.

Admission fee is collected for the first time in the Museum's history beginning January 1.

1982

Denver voters approve \$20 million bond issue by a 73.2% majority to fund the Museum's compliance with health and safety codes and to provide better care of collections.

Dinosaur *Stegosaurus* becomes Colorado's state fossil.

Phipps Auditorium is converted into IMAX® Theater.

IMAX® Theater opens July 1.

1983

In 1977, in response to "the demands of the future," the Development Office was formed to coordinate funding and assure the Museum's continued role as a viable source for education and the preservation of natural history. In 1982, as a result of reduced government funding, the Museum began charging admission for the first time. That same year, by a 73.2 percent majority, the public approved a \$20-million bond issue to upgrade the Museum's physical plant and provide a better environment for visitors and the Museum's valuable collections. Renovation of the existing building and new construction was supervised by Director Charles T. Crockett. The new North and

South Wings were dedicated in 1987, and a generous gift from the Morrison Charitable Trust provided funds for finishing the connecting atria.

New Directions

On March 16, 1987, John G. Welles became the Museum's fifth Director. He was given a mandate to pursue new opportunities for the Museum's role in public service. At the same time new additions to the building opened the door for innovative visitor programs.

While temporary exhibits have been part of the Museum's programming since opening in 1908, they became regular events beginning in 1980.

Their increasing importance and size has necessitated larger gallery space. The Museum's new wings provided space for the largest traveling exhibit the Museum ever hosted—"Ramses II: the Great Pharaoh and His Time." From October 1987 through March 1988, the Ramses event occupied approximately 45,000 square feet, including a bazaar sales area. The exhibit attracted 908,828 visitors. Other changing exhibits held in the new wings were

The new 1987 wings provided enough space for the Museum's first blockbuster traveling exhibit, "Ramses II: The Great Pharaoh and His Time." Photo by Gary D. Hall. [© 1990 DMNH]



Museum hosts its first "blockbuster" traveling exhibit, "Ramses II: The Great Pharaoh and His Time."
Hall of Life merges with Museum.
Tyrannosaurus rex cast is installed in new public entrance.

1987

Denver metropolitan area voters approve the Science and Cultural Facilities District. Funds used to support exhibits, collections, and education.

1988

"Nomads: Masters of the Eurasian Steppe," and "New Visions of Earth: The Technology of Reading Our Planet." Smaller temporary exhibits over the last ten years explored topics such as human creativity, Smithsonian collections, urban wildlife, H'mong and Yao textiles, Mayan archaeology, flight, Egyptian mummies, and dinosaurs.

In 1982, as a result of the efforts of Allan R. Phipps, remodelling began on Phipps Auditorium. On July 1, 1983, it reopened as an IMAX® theater with a screen 4 1/2 stories high and 6 stories wide. Films such as "To Fly!" "To the Limit," "Darwin on the Galapagos," "The Dream Is

Alive," and "Race the Wind" have been featured.

The Hall of Life merged with the Museum in 1987, offering the only program of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region. Educational activities and interactive exhibits focus on health and wellness issues.

A descendent of the Museum's early school service, today the dynamic education division offers tours, classes, trips, and other programs for children and adults. The Museum also sponsors lectures by renowned individuals such as Jane Goodall, Mary Leakey, Richard Leakey, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and Stephen Jay Gould.

Toward the 21st Century

In the early 1980s, City and State support of museums was severely reduced or eliminated. In 1988, however, voters in the six-county Denver metropolitan area voted overwhelmingly to create a Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to fund cultural and public educational organizations. The Museum uses its funds from this special district to refurbish exhibits; provide improved care of its permanent collections; reestablish a publications program; and assist with the development of new exhibits and programs, including outreach.

In 1990, the Museum's collections, used for exhibit and study, number more than 400,000. Donations during the last two decades include a 10,588 carat gem-cut Brazilian topaz; a rare Chilkat Indian "Killer Whale" blanket; a 56-foot fin whale skeleton; an *Allosaurus* dinosaur skeleton; and the last known Colorado grizzly bear, which was killed while mauling a hunting guide in 1979. The Schlessman Family Earth Sciences Laboratory opened in 1990 as a permanent "behind-the-scenes" area, allowing visitors to watch museum scientists at work. A library and archives also serve a broad range of researchers. As we approach a new century with global environmental problems reaching crisis pro-

portions, the Museum anticipates an increasingly challenging future.

During the Museum's 1908 opening exercises, John F. Campion proclaimed "... a Museum of Natural History is never finished." It cannot be so long as it documents, educates, and interprets the issues that affect our everyday lives, and those that will affect our children and grandchildren.

Cold War thaws. Museum hosts major exhibit from Soviet Union.

1989

The state-of-the-art Schlessman Family Earth Sciences Laboratory opens to the public.

1990

American Association of Museums re-accredits the Museum.

Restoration and updating of diorama halls begin.

Museum Administrators

1901-1909
John T. Mason,
Manager

1910-1935
Jesse D. Figgins,
Director

1936-1969
Alfred M. Bailey,
Director

1969-1971
Roy E. Coy, Director

1971-1974
Allan R. Phipps,
Acting Director

1974-1986
Charles T. Crockett,
Acting Director &
Director

1986-1987
Irving J. Shwayder,
Acting Director

1987-Present
John G. Welles,
Executive Director

Board of Trustees

Beardsley, Pamela D.
1990-

Beise, Charles J.
1957-1983
HLT 1983

Berger, George B.
1913-1919

Berger, George B., Jr.
1947-1957

Blayney, William N. W.
1923-1936

Boettcher, Claude K.
1928-1957

Bradbury, William C.
1915-1925

Brown, David R.C.
1928-1930

Brown, Harry K.
1909-1920

Brown, J. Sidney
1905-1913

*Brown, Junius F.
1900-1908

Brunton, David W.
1913-1927

Campbell, E. Ray
1958-1968

*Campion, John F.
1900-1916

Cannon, Brown W., Jr.
1985-

Chastain, Deborah B.
1975-1989
HLT 1989-

Cheesman, Walter S.
1900-1911

Church, John B.
1902-1914

Church, William
1900-1901

Cohen, Alvin L.
1975-

Cooke, Persifor M.
1917-1954

Coors, Jeffrey H.
1973-

Crane, Mary W.A.
1972-1982

Davis, Richard M.
1946-1987

de Ricqlès, Alphonse E.
1920-1943

Dines, Bruce E.
1969-

Dines, Thomas A.
1932-1954

Dines, Tyson S., Sr.
1924-1929

Dobbins, Christopher
1979-

Dobbins, Cris
1950-1979
HLT 1979

Dodge, David C.
1900-1917

Donner, Joan C.
1988-

Dorn, David F.
1981-

Evans, John
1913-1972
HLT 1972-1978

Farbes, Hubert A., Jr.
1990-

Ferguson, John A., III
1969-

Ferguson, John A., Jr.
1938-1980

Gates, Charles C.
1930-1954

Gates, Charles C., Jr.
1965-

Gates, John G.
1954-1969

Gooding, Richard L.
1981-1987, 1989-1990

governors of Colorado
1917-1948
ex-officio

Grant, Edwin
H. 1966-1968

Grant, James B.
1900-1911

Grant, William W.
1962-1966

Grant, William W., III
1969-

Guterman, Franklin
1912-1915

Hackstaff, Robert P.
1985-

Hallett, Lucius F.
1915-1927

Hallett, Moses
1900-1913

Hamilton, Ferris F.
1972-1977

Hanington, Charles H.
1923-1948

Hazellrigg, Charles R.
1985-

Hicks, S. Nelson
1917-1944

Hicks, S. Nelson, Jr.
1947-1960

Hill, Crawford
1901-1922

Hodges, Joseph G.
1953-1972

Hoyt, L. Douglas
1987-

Hughes, Berrien
1913-1939

*Hughes, Charles J., Jr.
1900-1911

Humphreys, Albert E.
1925-1927

James, Harry C.
1906-1932

James, William H.
1900-1906

Jeffery, Edward T.
1900-1901

Johns, Frank J.
1958-1978
HLT 1978-

Johnson, Arthur E.
1964-1974
HLT 1974-1977

Jonas, Coloman
1940-1969

Kassler, Edwin S.
1927-1962

Kemp, Frank A.
1958-1971

Knight, Roger D., Jr.
1954-1983
HLT 1983-

Koch, Walter K.
1917-1956
1962-1987

*Kountze, Charles B.
1900-1911

Kountze, Harold
1922-1965

Leonard, William H.
1944-1947

Lewis, Harry T., Jr.
1979-

Lippitt, William D.
1933-1935

Loughridge, Paul
1937-1943

Mason, John T.
1919-1927

mayors of Denver
1906-1983 ex-officio

McGuire, John A.
1919-1942

McPhee, William P.
1923-1930

Mead, Walter C.
1913-1951

Merritt, Elmer W.
1900-1916

Moffat, David H.
1900-1911

Moore, Hudson, Jr.
1939-1983

Moore, W. Scott
1969-

More, Robert E.
1945-1958

Morey, John W.
1917-1956

Morse, A. Reynolds
1978-

Morton, Max T.
1986-

Mueller, Gilbert J.
1958-1974
HLT 1974-1980

Nielsen, Aksel
1954-1984

Norgren, C. Neil
1969-

Norgren, Carl A.
1944-1968

O'Fallon, Martin J.
1931-1944

Page, William Byrd
1900-1917

*Patterson, Thomas M.
1900-1916

Pemberton, George A.
1919-1938

Person, Robert T.
1964-1978
HLT 1978-

Phillips, Orin L.
1945-1960

Phipps, Allan R.
1942-

Phipps, Lawrence C.
1913-1958

*Porter, Henry M.
1900-1937

Reed, Mary D.
1930-1945

Reid, Frederick H.
1931-1943

Reynolds, Albert E.
1900-1921

Ricketson, Frank H., Jr.
1944-1980
HLT 1980-1987

Roberts, Harold D.
1946-1956

Rockwell, Robert B.
1936-1941

Roeder, Arthur
1933-1937

Shwayder, Irving J.
1979-

Sinclair, William, II
1975-1986

Smith, Eben
1900-1906

Stoddart, Leonore T.
1983-

Taylor, Frank M.
1900-1930

Thatcher, Joseph A.
1900-1918

*Thomas, Charles S.
1900-1922

Trott, Alfred B.
1934-1944

Trujillo, Solomon D.
1988-1989

Trumbull, Frank
1900-1909

Van Schaack, Henry C.
1939-1963

Vanderbeek, James W.
1983-1986

Weckbaugh, J. Kernan
1958-1973
HLT 1973-1988

Welborn, Jesse F.
1919-1945

Wilfley, Arthur F.
1916-1927

Wilfley, G. Michael
1984-

Willcox, Charles MacA.
1920-1932

Wolcott, Henry R.
1900-1906

* Museum incorporators

HLT Honorary Lifetime Trustee



Left: *The Denver Museum of
Natural History in 1990.*
[DMNH Photo Archives]

Front cover: *The Colorado
Museum of Natural History in
1908.*
[DMNH Photo Archives]

Back cover: *The Denver Museum
of Natural History in 1978—seventy
years after it opened to the public.*
[DMNH Photo Archives]

The First 90 Years

Author: Kris Haglund, Archivist
Printing: anonymous donor
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90 YEARS

